

Satellite radio providing local oriented content such as instant traffic and weather is a godsend. Now, while travelling, I can instantly get information for the metro areas I visit without resorting to flipping the dial and hoping to hear something about traffic before I'm caught in a problem. The free market will shake out what formats and services should prosper, and it is galling that entrenched commercial radio interests are being protected from the consequences of their poor programming and business models. I say, let satellite radio provide whatever services the paying public wants. Consumers should be the final voice in these matters. Period.

And before anyone makes an argument about the "local" character of commercial radio, remember that most "local" radio is canned, recorded pablum shipped out from Clear Channel and Infinity to the affiliates. There is very little "local" about local radio except the advertising, which the radio conglomerants are doing everything in their power to keep as a revenue stream. Why the FCC and Congress feel compelled to protect their advertising base is beyond me. If the public wants the format to wither, let it die.